

MTM/VF EIS

Community Narrative: Naugatuck, West Virginia

Interviewer: I am going to ask you several questions regarding again about Mountain Top Mining. Could you tell me a little bit about yourself and your family and how you came to live in the Naugatuck area?

Resident: Well, I have lived in the Naugatuck area all of my life. Ever since I was about six years old, lived over up on Big Branch, that mine is up there.

Interviewer: And what was the name of the bank or the Mountain?

Resident: It was more of a development where I lived up on Big Branch most of the time till I went in the service.

Interviewer: O.K., you said Big Branch?

Resident: Yea.

Interviewer: O.K., Big Branch, O.K. Did your parents reside in Naugatuck then too?

Resident: Yea.

Interviewer: So you were a life-long resident, born and raised in Naugatuck.

Resident: I was born on Marble, but I was about six years old up in here.

Interviewer: Since you were six years you lived in Naugatuck?

Resident: Yea.

Interviewer: You were born outside the area then?

Resident: Uh Huh.

Interviewer: O.K. When did your family then first arrive in Naugatuck.

Resident: I don't know, I don't remember.

Interviewer: So basically your family has had long ties to the Naugatuck community?

Resident: I was about, well we lived on Main over there in Logan County for a while, and then we moved back over here when I was six years old. Ever since.

Interviewer: O.K., so you have been in Naugatuck since you were six years old?

Resident: Yea.

Interviewer: O.K. In terms of the mining operations, we are trying to concentrate a time frame, from 1980 up to the current time, so one thing, if you could maybe keep in mind anything from 1980 to the present day when you are answering the questions that would be great. When did mining operations come into Naugatuck?

Resident: Oh, ever since I can remember the strip jobs bit the other mine deep mines things up know.

Interviewer: When did you observe, or when do you know when Mountain Top Mining type of operations came into the Naugatuck community?

Resident: I can't remember what time it was.

Interviewer: And they are currently operating now?

Resident: In some places, yea.

Interviewer: In your own opinion, what are the effects of Mountain Top Mining on the community. In your own opinion?

Resident: [I], he don't affect nobody, he just gets more work and stuff to the people. It don't affect nobody through here that way.

Interviewer: So it sort of has some positive affects then for employment opportunities, is that what you are saying?

Resident: Yea.

Interviewer: O.K. How many people live in Naugatuck. How large is Naugatuck in terms of the number of people or families that live there?

Resident: Well I guess, right through my community, there is about 50 homes.

Interviewer: About 50 homes?

Resident: Yea.

Interviewer: Have you noticed any changes in the population? Have people moved in? Has it increased or decreased over the last 20 years?

Resident: Well, it's been about the same. Somebody moved in but a lot of elder people have since then passed away and some other peoples have moved in. Younger people, you know.

Interviewer: Do you know why the younger people are moving in? Is there any reason that you can determine why they are moving into the area?

Resident: Well, they just like the location.

Interviewer: They like the surroundings and what the community has to offer I assume. O.K. Is any of that been related to the mining operations in terms of are they seeking employment at the mines or there are other reasons you think that they are . . .

Resident: They are there, most of them, is working in the mines.

Interviewer: So most of the people that live in Naugatuck are employed by the mining operations? Is that correct?

Resident: Yea.

Interviewer: O.K. Has anything . . . what do you like most about Naugatuck? Why do you stay there?

Resident: Well, it's just home to me, I have been here so long and it's a handy place for me. I told you I am a Christian and right across in front of the house is the church house, I go to church there and I can walk over to the post office and store and it's just a handy place for me.

Interviewer: So there's a lot of other things that you like about Naugatuck that keeps you there like the church and the store and the post office.

Resident: Yea, and I have been here all my life and I know a lot of people and stuff.

Interviewer: Did you ever work in the mines?

Resident: Yea.

Interviewer: You did? How long ago?

Resident: It's been a right smart bit ago. It's been 40 years, I guess, since I worked in the mines.

Interviewer: It's been almost 40 years ago since you worked in the mines?

Resident: Yea.

Interviewer: O.K., so that's been quite a long time ago, hasn't it?

Resident: Yea, the last I worked I worked at the Coppers Mine in Wyoming County.

Interviewer: In Wyoming County, and that's in West Virginia?

Resident: Yea.

Interviewer: O.K. Do you . . . in terms of do you hear anybody talk about the mining operations? Has it caused any problems for them, the people that you know, or have any feedback about the mining operations in the Naugatuck area currently?

Resident: Well, uh, all that I have talked to and things, when they talk about shut down the strip jobs, they think it's wrong, they ought to let the men work.

Interviewer: So, it is really a positive aspect that the mining operations are in Naugatuck and really for the employment opportunities, is that correct?

Resident: Yea.

Interviewer: So you haven't heard any people talk or any negative effects from the mining operations there in the community?

Resident: No.

Interviewer: O.K. Did the mining operations, have they had any contact with you about their operations in terms of notifications of their operations, or any just personal relationships that they have had in any . . . with you or any other members of your community?

Resident: No.

Interviewer: O.K. Do they announce when they are doing any operations or any blasting activities for example?

Resident: No.

Interviewer: O.K. So you are pretty much . . . you're gonna remain in the Naugatuck community probably for the rest of your life then I assume?

Resident: Yea.

Interviewer: O.K. The questions that I have the way you have answered them have . . ., you know, you have been to the point and that's great, but that's all I have for you. We are trying to get an understanding and I think your overall opinion is that the mining operations have positive affects on the community.

Resident: Yea.

Interviewer: O.K. Super. Well, with that in mind, that's all I have to ask you. We appreciate your time and you have a . . .